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Letter dated 16 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Guatemala in October 2012 (see annex).

The report was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gert **Rosenthal**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Spanish]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Guatemala (October 2012)

Introduction

During the presidency of Guatemala in October 2012, the Security Council adopted four resolutions and issued three presidential statements and six statements to the press. The Council also held two open debates: one on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and one on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security. In addition, the Council held two debates, on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and on Somalia, and two briefings, on the situation in Sierra Leone and on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Owing to the exceptional circumstances arising from Hurricane Sandy in New York, the Council could not carry out all the activities set out in its programme of work for the month of October and had to postpone the adoption of its annual report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012, a private meeting with the President of the International Court of Justice, consultations on the report on the implementation of Council resolution 1559 (2004) and an open thematic debate on women and peace and security.

In another noteworthy development, on 4 October the Security Council Affairs Division launched the Council's new Internet page (www.un.org/en/sc), which may be consulted in the six official languages.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 25 October 2012, during consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, Gert Rosenthal, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire. Mr. Rosenthal briefly summarized the main conclusions contained in the midterm report of the Group of Experts, and referred to the Group's findings on the evolving security situation in several neighbouring States, including the progressive deterioration of the political and security situation in Mali, the mercenary/militia crisis at the Ivorian border with Liberia and in the western and southern parts of Côte d'Ivoire and the presence of supporters of former President Laurent Gbagbo in Ghana.

Council members commended the Group on the scope and thoroughness of its midterm report. While several Member States agreed that there had been progress in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, several delegations also expressed concern at the remaining challenges, such as the large quantity of weapons and ammunition that,

according to available information, remained in circulation, and the Ivorian authorities' lack of capacity in the relevant sectors.

Libya

On 23 October 2012, the Security Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, on the situation in Libya and, in particular, the indiscriminate shelling and precarious humanitarian situation in and around the town of Bani Walid. Mr. Zerihoun indicated that President Mohamed Magariaf had focused his efforts on a peaceful settlement based on three conditions: (a) full Government authority in the town; (b) the surrender of all suspects; and (c) the release of all detainees. Mr. Zerihoun also said that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, Tarek Mitri, and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya were working towards a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Bani Walid. Mr. Zerihoun said that the latest events in the town showed that the Libyan authorities must address crucial issues.

Council members expressed concern over the ongoing fighting in Bani Walid and urged its peaceful resolution. They called on all concerned to uphold international humanitarian law and human rights law. While noting the progress made by Libya, they expressed concern over the significant challenges that the country still faced with regard to the disarmament of militias and national reconciliation.

Mali

On 4 October 2012, the Security Council met in closed consultations to hear a briefing on the situation in Mali by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman. Mr. Feltman informed the Council that the situation in Mali remained extremely volatile and that the contrasting approaches taken to date by Mali's various sectors to resolve the situation had further complicated matters. He stressed that a unified position on the part of the international community was urgently needed and reported that a small United Nations mission, led by the Department of Political Affairs and comprising staff from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, was visiting Bamako from 1 to 5 October.

Council members expressed concern about the increased entrenchment of terrorist organizations in the north of Mali and said that they would like to continue to consider possible Security Council responses to recent calls by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the transitional Government of Mali for the deployment of an African-led force to assist the Malian armed forces in restoring the country's territorial integrity and reducing the threat posed by terrorist groups in the north of Mali. Some delegations expressed support for the meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group on the Situation in Mali to be held in Bamako on 19 October, where key actors such as the African Union, the United Nations and ECOWAS would meet to move forward with a unified strategy for resolving the crisis in Mali. Council members underlined the need for a well-planned and -resourced coordinated response that should address political, humanitarian and security issues. Members of the Council also expressed their support for the

appointment of a special envoy for the Sahel and said that the region had become a priority for the international community.

Later, on 12 October, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council adopted its resolution 2071 (2012), in which it declared its readiness to respond to the 18 September request of the transitional authorities of Mali regarding an international military force to assist the Malian armed forces in recovering the occupied regions in the north of Mali, and requested the Secretary-General to submit, no later than 45 days after the adoption of the resolution, a report with detailed and actionable recommendations to respond to that request.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 10 October 2012, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, who gave his assessment of the current situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in Rutshuru.

Mr. Mulet informed the Council that the situation was a cause for concern, especially in the light of the precarious humanitarian and security situation. He also told Council members that many areas in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained under the control of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), which threatened to extend that control. Mr. Mulet said that the civilian population remained extremely vulnerable to the constant attacks and human rights violations taking place both in and around the city of Goma, especially in view of the forced recruitment of children and sexual abuses. Mr. Mulet referred to the summit held in Kampala on 8 and 9 October 2012 and the initiatives presented there, such as the Joint Verification Mechanism and the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre. He also referred to the need for international pressure to be brought to bear to prevent M23 from receiving external support that could fuel the conflict. Lastly, Mr. Mulet said that the appointment of a special envoy could be useful in facilitating dialogue among the actors in the region and internally within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while coordinating with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and he noted that the appointment of a new special envoy could be considered.

Council members said that regional and subregional efforts should be coordinated and promoted to address the inherent risks of an escalation of the conflict. Some Council members supported the appointment of a special envoy for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and requested more information on the envoy's mandate.

On 19 October, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/22), in which it expressed its concern regarding the deteriorating security and humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, strongly condemned M23 and all its attacks and demanded that M23 and other armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), immediately cease all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities. In addition, the Council reiterated its strong condemnation of all external support for M23 and called upon all countries in the region to condemn M23 as well as other armed groups. Finally, the Council expressed its full support for MONUSCO and

commended the active measures it had taken to implement its mandate in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sierra Leone

On 9 October 2012, the Security Council held a briefing on the Special Court for Sierra Leone and was briefed by the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher, and by the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Brenda Hollis, who emphasized the Court's achievements and stressed the support received from the people of Sierra Leone. They also highlighted the role of the Court in the national reconciliation process and in the establishment of justice and the rule of law in the country and the region. They said that despite the many challenges, especially where indictment, witnesses and staffing were concerned, the Special Court had played a key role in prosecuting war criminals. Finally, they underlined the importance of the residual mechanism for the Special Court for Sierra Leone in finalizing this important work and urged Member States to make financial contributions to the mechanism.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, Ebun Jusu, acknowledged in her statement the Special Court's important work and expressed the commitment of her Government to support further its mandate.

Council members commended the Special Court for Sierra Leone for its outstanding work in fighting impunity and for bringing to justice those responsible for war crimes. Council members agreed that the mandate established pursuant to its resolution 1315 (2000) had been successfully implemented, and they looked forward to the timely completion of the mandate and the Court's transition to the residual mechanism. Council members noted its financial needs and urged other States to make financial contributions. Council members also acknowledged the Court's important contribution to international criminal justice.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/21) in which, inter alia, it reiterated its support for the Special Court.

Sudan, South Sudan and Darfur

On 3 October 2012, the Security Council issued a press statement in which it condemned in the strongest terms the ambush on a patrol of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in El Geneina, in which four Nigerian peacekeepers had been killed and eight injured. Council members also expressed their condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the Government of Nigeria, and called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice. Finally, the members of the Council reiterated their full support for UNAMID and called on all parties to cooperate with the mission.

On 4 October 2012, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2012/722) and reported on the agreements between the Sudan and South Sudan signed on 27 September 2012.

Mr. Ladsous informed the Council about the agreements reached, mainly on economic, trade, oil transit, security, demarcation and citizenship issues. Regarding Abyei, he said that the parties had not been able to reach any agreement on the resolution of the final status of the area and stressed that a solution was needed to maintain peaceful order among the communities living in the area. He also said that the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei had taken steps to avoid conflicts and maintain order.

During the consultations that followed, Council members welcomed the agreements reached between the Sudan and South Sudan and stressed the need for their swift implementation. They regretted the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and urged the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-North to implement the memorandum of understanding in order to permit immediate humanitarian access, based on the tripartite proposal of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations. Council members also urged the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North to engage in direct talks on the resolution of the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Council members called on the Sudan and South Sudan to continue talks on all outstanding issues, especially regarding the final status of Abyei and the disputed areas.

On 16 October 2012, Mr. Ladsous again briefed the Council in closed consultations on the most recent agreements reached between the Sudan and South Sudan and their significance. He reported that the parliament of South Sudan had just ratified nine agreements and that those agreements had been presented to the Sudanese parliament on 9 October and were awaiting ratification. Mr. Ladsous reiterated to Council members his concern about the regrettable humanitarian and refugee situation in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States and at the recent shelling of Kadugli by SPLM-North. Furthermore, he said that the Sudan and SPLM-North should find a solution through direct negotiations. Finally, he spoke of the urgent need to reach an agreement on the status of Abyei.

During the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members reiterated their support for the effective implementation of the agreements reached among the parties and expressed the need for related public support and awareness-raising. In that respect, members said that the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole should support the agreements and ensure that the parties implemented them fully. Council members reiterated their concern at the humanitarian situation in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States. Council members called for direct negotiations between the Sudan and SPLM-North to resolve the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. They also reiterated their call for a resolution of the final status of Abyei. Lastly, Council members said that both the Sudan and South Sudan would benefit from the recent steps taken to resume trade between the two countries and oil production, and to guarantee border security.

On 17 October 2012, the Council issued a statement to the press in which it condemned in the strongest terms the attack by unidentified armed men on a UNAMID patrol en route to Hashaba in Northern Darfur, in which one South African peacekeeper had been killed and three others injured, two of them seriously. The Council also expressed its condolences to the family of the victim, to the Government and people of South Africa and to UNAMID and urged the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Finally, the Council reiterated its full support for UNAMID and called on all parties to cooperate with the mission.

On 24 October 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on UNAMID, in which he provided an update on the situation in the Darfur region and noted that, 15 months after the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, there was broad support among civil society, internally displaced persons and local authorities for the initiatives set out therein. Mr. Mulet reported that the signatory parties had taken some steps to implement them, especially regarding the verification of the Liberation and Justice Movement forces, and the dissemination of the Doha Document among the civilian population. However, he acknowledged that there had not been substantial progress of obvious benefit to the population of Darfur and that other groups had yet to be included in the process begun with the signing of the Doha Document. Mr. Mulet also reported that in Darfur consultations were taking place among regional actors in preparation for a conference of donors to be held in Doha in December 2012 with the aim of promoting the content of the Doha Document, because many of the initiatives set out in it could not be implemented owing to a lack of funding.

Council members, in consultations of the whole, expressed their support for the Doha Document and for the road map for peace, and urged the Government of the Sudan to cooperate with UNAMID.

Somalia

On 16 October 2012, the Council held a debate on the situation in Somalia and was briefed by videoconference by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga. Mr. Mahiga stressed that recent historic political and security achievements were very important and represented a new era in the country. He welcomed the recent appointment of the Prime Minister by the President and reaffirmed that the Government was the most inclusive, transparent and efficient that Somalia had had in two decades.

The Special Representative called on the Council and the international community to continue to support Somalia and address the Government's new priorities. He referred to the fourth report of the Chair of the African Union Commission on the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and reiterated his support for the extension of the mandate until October 2013. He also asked the Council to support the African Union and to authorize an extension of the logistical support measures with the necessary adjustments to strengthen the civilian component and add a maritime one.

During the debate, Council members welcomed the unprecedented achievements in the political arena and with regard to the security strategy. They expressed their support for AMISOM and welcomed its successful capture of the port city of Kismayo, but acknowledged that Al-Shabaab remained a threat to the peace and stability of Somalia and that it had increased its capacity for asymmetrical military tactics. Some Council members referred to the efforts made to combat piracy in the coastal waters of Somalia. Council members expressed serious concern at the fragile humanitarian situation and reiterated the need for full access to the whole country. Council members also underlined the need for a strategic assessment

of United Nations operations in Somalia, to be followed by a broad review of AMISOM.

On 31 October 2012, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2072 (2012), which allowed for a seven-day technical extension of the AMISOM mandate owing to the exceptional circumstances in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

The Americas

Haiti

On 3 October 2012, the Council held a debate on the question of Haiti, presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Harold Caballeros. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Mariano Fernández, briefed the Council and introduced the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2012/678), in which the most significant developments since the issuance of the previous report and information on activities carried out by the Mission in accordance with its mandate were presented.

The Special Representative said that Haiti should focus its efforts on strengthening its rule-of-law institutions, including the national police. He also explained that the strengthening of the Haitian National Police was a main priority for MINUSTAH, as it would pave the way for the Mission's eventual withdrawal from Haiti. He described the security situation as being stable but with the fragility inherent in a society in the process of being stabilized, with precarious socioeconomic indicators and extreme poverty affecting a large portion of the country.

The Special Representative also outlined a reconfiguration and consolidation plan, which was being developed in consultation with the Government of Haiti, to gradually reduce the Mission's military presence and give a stronger security role to the national police forces. He highlighted the importance of establishing a permanent electoral council, adding that MINUSTAH and the international community were facilitating a dialogue to establish a council that would eventually oversee the conduct of the delayed elections of members of the Senate, mayors and municipal officials. Mr. Fernández also noted that the cholera epidemic continued to be a serious challenge and that the United Nations was working on a plan to intensify prevention efforts.

In the discussion, Council members recognized the swearing-in of a new Government, the publication of constitutional amendments and the establishment of the Superior Council of the Judiciary as signs of significant progress, describing the events as important milestones in efforts by Haiti to strengthen its democratic and rule-of-law institutions. Council members took note of the improvement in the humanitarian situation in Haiti and called for renewed efforts to provide housing to the thousands of internally displaced persons still in camps. They also emphasized that continued international engagement was crucial to ensuring that all pressing humanitarian needs were met. In addition, they strongly supported the recent launch of the aid coordination mechanism aimed at increasing the accountability and transparency of foreign aid.

Members of the Council also expressed concern regarding the obstacles to forming the permanent electoral council and stressed that preparations for the elections must be completed without further delay. They supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Mission's mandate be extended for one year, as well as the efforts to develop a plan for a reconfiguration and conditions-based consolidation of MINUSTAH.

Subsequently, on 12 October, the Council adopted its resolution 2070 (2012), in which it decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH for a period of 12 months. It also decided that the Mission's overall force levels would consist of up to 6,270 officials and troops, through a balanced withdrawal of infantry and engineering personnel, and of a police component of up to 2,601 personnel, and affirmed that future adjustments to the MINUSTAH force configuration should be based on the security situation on the ground.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 9 October 2012, the Security Council unanimously adopted its resolution 2069 (2012), in which it decided to extend the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force for a period of 12 months.

Middle East

Lebanon

On 19 October 2012, the Council issued a statement to the press in which it expressed its strongest condemnation for the terrorist attack carried out that day in Beirut, which had caused the death of the Interior Security Forces Information Branch Chief, Brigadier General Wissam al-Hassan, and numerous other deaths and injuries. Council members also expressed their condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Lebanon. They appealed to the Lebanese people to preserve national unity and called upon all parties in Lebanon to continue engaging in the national dialogue under the authority of President Michel Sleiman to this effect. They also recalled the need to put an end to impunity in Lebanon.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 15 October 2012, the Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, in which it heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, who emphasized that the window of opportunity for taking constructive action to preserve the two-State solution might be in the process of becoming more limited and that there was no alternative to a sustainable and just solution to negotiated peace. He also focused on the economic crisis facing the Palestinian Authority; the security situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, Israel and the region; the obstacles that must be overcome in order to relaunch the stagnant peace process between Palestinians and Israel; and the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, which remained critical to peace and stability in the region, in particular the grave concerns regarding the escalation of violence. Mr. Feltman also expressed alarm at the high level of tension between the Syrian Arab Republic

and Turkey, and the risk that the conflict would intensify if the parties did not show restraint. He noted that it was possible that the situation in Lebanon would deteriorate as a result of the country's continued exposure to the Syrian conflict. With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he condemned settlement activities and called for an end to attacks on Israeli territory. The Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer for Palestine then delivered statements.

In the discussion that followed, many members of the Security Council and other States condemned Israeli settlement activities and described them as illegal under international law. In addition, they stated that such activities undermined progress towards a two-State solution. Some members called on both parties to cease unilateral actions that undermined peace efforts. Council members agreed on the need for the parties to return to direct negotiations and condemned the rocket attacks on Israel originating in Gaza.

Several members of the Security Council and other States noted that it was essential that Israelis and Palestinians re-engage with the peace process, including by presenting proposals on territory and security and working to establish mutual confidence-building measures. Numerous members expressed support for the Palestinian bid for enhancement of its status in the United Nations, while some members cautioned against such unilateral actions.

With regard to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, several Member States referred to the escalation of violence and increase in tension between the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. Two Security Council members condemned the violence and stated that there was a need to ensure a political transition led by Syrians and to keep the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic from spreading to Lebanon. Council members expressed regret at the continuing deterioration in the humanitarian situation and the shortfall in funds raised for the United Nations humanitarian appeal. They also referred to the constant flow of arms to the Syrian Arab Republic, which further fuelled the conflict.

On 4 October 2012, the Security Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the shelling by the Syrian armed forces of the Turkish town of Akcakale, which had resulted in the deaths of five civilians, all of whom were women or children, as well as a number of injuries. The Council underlined that the incident highlighted the grave impact of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic on the security of its neighbours and on regional peace and stability. In addition, it expressed its sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Turkey.

On 5 October 2012, the Council issued a press statement in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks carried out on 3 October in the Syrian city of Aleppo, which had left dozens dead and more than 100 injured. Security Council members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. The Council also reiterated its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

On 24 October 2012, the Security Council held consultations of the whole in which it heard a briefing by the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations

and the League of Arab States for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, by videoconference. The Joint Special Representative described his recent visit to the region, specifically to Damascus, and spoke of the talks that he had held with various members of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to the crisis in the country. He informed the Council that the Government had accepted the proposal of a truce during the Eid al-Adha period. While some opposition groups had agreed, others had yet to come on board.

After the meeting, the Security Council issued a statement to the press in which it welcomed the initiative of the Joint Special Representative for a ceasefire during Eid al-Adha. It also called upon all international and regional actors to support the ceasefire and to use their influence on the parties concerned to facilitate its implementation. The members of the Council also underlined the need to launch an inclusive Syrian-led political transition and called upon all the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular the Syrian authorities, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and relevant humanitarian organizations to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Thematic issues

Promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

On 17 October 2012, the Council held an open thematic debate on "Peace and justice, with a special focus on the role of the International Criminal Court" which was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Harold Caballeros. The Secretary-General delivered an introductory statement. The Council heard briefings by the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, and the Director of the Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division, Phakiso Mochochoko, who spoke on behalf of the Prosecutor of the Court.

The debate offered the first opportunity to address the relationship between the Security Council and the International Criminal Court in a comprehensive manner, with participants exploring how the Court could serve as a tool of preventive diplomacy and assist the Council in carrying out its mandate. The discussion also examined how the relationship between the two bodies had developed over the past decade and considered the way forward in strengthening their existing linkages. As the Member State holding the presidency of the Security Council, Guatemala had prepared a concept note (S/2012/731, annex).

The President of the International Criminal Court emphasized that the Security Council and the Court were two highly distinct bodies, with very different roles, but that they were connected by the shared objectives of peace, justice and respect for international law, enshrined in both the Charter of the United Nations and the Rome Statute. Judge Song affirmed that in order for the Court to effectively deal with situations referred by the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, it needed to be able to count on the full and continuing cooperation of all United Nations Member States, including those that were not parties to the Rome Statute. With regard to future referrals, he noted that it would be very helpful if the Council could underline that obligation of full cooperation.

The representative of the Prosecutor of the Court emphasized the need for cooperation and noted that the Security Council and the Office of the Prosecutor should together seek more constructive strategies for attaining their mutual goals. He recalled the recent efforts made by regional organizations, and called for such efforts to be replicated in other situations. On the other hand, the failure of States to implement the Court's arrest warrants was also reflected in the failure to implement resolutions relating to a cessation of violence, the disarmaments of parties to a conflict and ensuring an end to impunity.

In the open debate, some Member States welcomed the achievements of the Court and referred to it as a preventive tool. Others mentioned the challenges in the relationship between the two bodies, pointing at practical and legal implications arising from the referral by the Council of certain situations to the Court. Suggestions were made with a view to improving that relationship and strengthening common efforts towards achieving peace and justice. A number of Member States also referred to selectivity, the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the lack of follow-up to referrals made by the Security Council and country-specific situations. The importance of preserving the independence of the International Criminal Court was emphasized. At the same time, the view was expressed that it was important that the Court strive in its work for a balance between justice and reconciliation, and carry out its functions in a manner that supported collective efforts aimed at restoring peace and stability, as well as the rehabilitation of conflict-affected societies. Some members of the Council also addressed the "Kampala compromise" on the crime of aggression.

Women and peace and security

On 31 October 2012, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/23) in which it underlined the primary role of national Governments affected by armed conflicts to enhance the participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding within the framework of the women and peace and security agenda. The Council stressed that United Nations entities should continue to support and supplement, as appropriate, the efforts of national Governments to implement resolution 1325 (2000). In this regard, the Council welcomed the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in contributing to the implementation of resolutions on women and peace and security, and noted with satisfaction the increased coordination and coherence in policy and programming for women and girls within the United Nations system, welcoming the efforts made to avoid duplication and overlap since the creation of UN-Women.

In the presidential statement, the Council also took note of the important role that civil society, including women's organizations, could play in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations, and encouraged the international community, regional organizations and concerned Member States to promote their active engagement and effective participation in a variety of roles, as appropriate, with a view to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).